

Top Secret



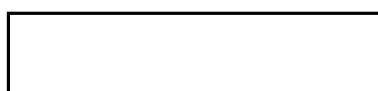
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LAOS: Peace talks begin today. (Page 3)

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LAOS: The opening round of peace talks between the government and the Lao Communists will be held in Vientiane today.

The Communist delegation to the talks arrived in the Lao capital on Saturday as scheduled. On the preceding day, the delegation made a brief stopover in Hanoi, where it was received by North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong. Hanoi has been exhibiting considerable interest in the impending talks and, through its diplomatic representatives in Vientiane, has been expressing the hope that they will proceed expeditiously. Although the Lao Communists have not given any clues as to their negotiating tactics, their statements on arriving in Vientiane had a conciliatory tone.

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